

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE list of Churches called to the Advisory Council to be held in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, on the 15th of February, to confer in relation to certain matters growing out of the great scandal, has been published. It comprises 171 Churches of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas and District of Columbia, besides a number of ministers without charge. The list does not contain the name of any New York City or Brooklyn Church.

THE public debt statement for January shows a reduction for the month of \$1,599,155; coin in Treasury, \$73,601,375; currency in Treasury, \$11,992,580; coin certificates, \$34,604,400; special deposits of legal-tenders, \$4,060,000; outstanding legal-tenders, \$371,273,140.

THE Committee on Finance in the Senate has referred to the Comptroller of the Currency, for the expression of his views, the bill to authorize the formation of National Banks with capital as small as \$50,000, without restriction as to the population of the place where they may be located.

THE House Committee on Indian Affairs has finally decided not to recommend any appropriations to satisfy any claim for losses sustained by Indian depredations. The committee takes the ground substantially that the Government is not liable to pay for Indian depredations, either out of the general Treasury or Indian trust fund annuities. Representative Lane of Oregon will make a minority report, contending that the Government is bound in one way or another to pay well established claims for losses occasioned by acts of its Indian wards.

In the United States District Court at St. Louis, on the 1st, the trial of ex-Collector Maguire was brought to a summary conclusion by the defendant entering a plea of guilty as to the charges of neglect of official duty. As to the charge that he acted in collusion with the King and participated in the profits thereof, the District-Attorney stated that the Government would abandon the prosecution of that count, inasmuch as they had no evidence to support the charge. A nolle pro. was accordingly entered to this count and a plea of guilty as to the others.

In the United States District Court at St. Louis, on the 1st, Judge Dillon overruled a motion to vacate an order requiring the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company to produce certain telegrams passing between Orville E. Babcock, John McDonald, John A. Joyce and Mrs. Kate M. Joyce, on the ground that the order was improvidently made. The Judge held that the dispatches were sufficiently described in the subpoena duces tecum, and that the dispatches must be produced in court.

In the United States District Court at Indianapolis, on the 1st, the following named parties were sentenced for illicit whisky operations: Philip C. Eberwine, G. T. Simonson, D. M. Lewis, Harrison Miller, Wm. Mumford, H. B. Snyder, Alfred M. McGuff, and John E. Phillips, each two years in the Southern Indiana Penitentiary, and a fine of \$1,000; Jas. K. Hill, three years in the Penitentiary and a fine of \$1,000; Thomas Robb, one year in the Gibson County Jail, and a fine of \$1,000; Henry Jacques, Christopher Coconour, John F. Crisp and Dennis Reilly, each six months in the Gibson County Jail, and a fine of \$500; Geo. Hogan, six months in the Vanderburg County Jail, and a fine of \$500. Passing sentence upon J. W. Bingham has been postponed for a few weeks longer.

THE latest, in many respects the saddest, case of forgery recently reported, is that of Mrs. Ellen S. Tupper, of Des Moines, Iowa, a lady widely known throughout the country by her writings on and practical success in bee culture. It is now known that for two years this lady has met her pressing pecuniary obligations by forging the names of well known business men as indorsers for her paper, her operations being extended widely throughout the State. Her plan seems to have been, when detected in one place, to raise on forged notes money in another place to save herself. From her well-known reputation and wide-extended acquaintance among the most prominent business men of the State, and her hitherto unblemished

name for honesty and probity, she could easily do this. It is charitable to believe that the unfortunate woman is insane, as the recklessness with which she conducted her operations in many cases gives a fair presumption. On the 29th ult. she was arrested and taken to Monticello, Jones County, where she had negotiated about \$2,000 worth of notes bearing the forged indorsement of John Hodgdon, of Dubuque. Mrs. Tupper is a very remarkable woman, and by her own exertions had raised to womanhood and highly educated three daughters, all of whom are fitted to occupy the highest position in society.

A REPORT, presenting the results of investigation into the Bremerhaven explosion, has been published by the Bremen authorities. According to his own deposition, the name of the perpetrator was William King Thompson. He was born in Brooklyn, in 1830. His parents, who emigrated from Hamburg to America, are now living in Virginia. Thompson was taken prisoner when running the blockade during the late war in the United States. He escaped and fled South, where he passed under the name of Thomas. He mentioned A. Midlers Skidmore, of New York, as an accomplice, but made no reference to other accomplices. His wife supposed his name was Alexander. He had a tattooed arm. There is no evidence that he entered into relations with the underwriters, or plotted against the safety of the vessels previous to 1874, nor is there any evidence, except an insurance of 3,000 marks on the barrel which exploded, that he insured any goods to be shipped by the Mosel or Deutschland. Observations made by Thomson point to the conclusion that he intended to hand a small box to the officers of the Mosel, declaring it contained greenbacks, and that he intended to have the box insured. In 1874, Thomson insured goods on the steamer Rheine for £9,000, through Barings, of London. His wife's evidence shows that previous to his departure, in November, 1875, Thomson anxiously waited for a letter from England, which he concealed when it arrived.

General Sherman, in a letter to an Ohio gentleman, evidently intended for the public eye, expresses his views regarding two matters of considerable interest at this time, viz., the Presidency and the public school question. The letter is as follows:

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 2, 1876. DEAR SIR: Your kind letter is just received, and though I thought every body knew my general opinion on the point of your inquiry, I can not hesitate to answer you in such a way as to admit of no misconception.

I never have been, am not now, and never will be, a candidate for the high office of President before any convention or the people. I shall always prefer to see that office filled by one of the millions who in the civil war stood by the Union firmly and unconditionally, and of those I notice many names willing and capable. Prominent is that of Gen. Hayes, now Governor of Ohio, whom we know as a fine officer and a gentleman in every sense. I do not, however, wish to be understood as presuming to advise any body in the choice of the man.

My wife and family are strong Catholics, but I am not. That, however, is nobody's business. I believe in the common schools, and don't stop at the little matters that seem to be exaggerated by the press. In some quarters, however, these schools are extravagant and indulge in costly buildings and expensive teachers, so as to be too heavy a burden on the tax-payers. This tendency ought to be checked, which may easily be done without making it a political question. Self-interest will regulate this, and make these free schools to all and capable of imparting the rudiments of a good English education.

Yours truly, W. T. SHERMAN. To the Hon. J. M. Dalzell, Columbus, O.

MR. HENRY C. BOWEN, on the 4th, presented a letter to the Examining Committee of Plymouth Church, in answer to the grievances of Mr. S. W. White, a member of said committee, who charges Bowen with having slandered his pastor. In the beginning of his letter Mr. Bowen relates the substance of interviews with Mr. White, and says:

"I felt at first, as I do now, that Mr. White and the examining Committee and Plymouth Church could be better employed in investigating the direct charges against the pastor made in the plainest language—charges embracing the crimes of adultery and perjury—rather than skirmishing about in new fields to see if a few more persons could not be scared or in some way drawn or driven into the difficulty.....If he is absolutely innocent, why do you not act as if you believed it, and thus put an end to this horrible scandal? If he is a pure man, here is the straight road out of all difficulty. You have unfortunately, in my opinion, chosen a different course..... Now, being summoned here to speak, and to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, I solemnly give it as my unwavering opinion, in view of all the facts and evidences presented to me, that Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, without even the shadow of doubt in my mind, is guilty

of the awful crimes of adultery, perjury and hypocrisy. This, and I say it again, before the bar of this committee, is my deliberate opinion, and I may be permitted to affirm that I give it calmly, without malice and with no other than a sincere desire to do my duty faithfully to God and man, to the Church and to the world.

(Signed) HENRY C. BOWEN. The Examining Committee of Plymouth Church subsequently framed a letter to Mr. Bowen, in which he is summoned to appear before the committee on Tuesday evening, Feb. 8, and give proof of the assertions contained in his reply to the grievances of Mr. White.

DURING the performance of an allegorical piece entitled "The Great Republic," at Robinson's Opera-house in Cincinnati, on the afternoon of the 5th, a panic occurred, caused by an alarm of fire. There was immediately a general stampede of the audience towards the doors, and in the crush which ensued ten persons were killed and many others seriously injured. At the time of the panic the house was packed to its utmost capacity, the performance being given for a charitable purpose and some 500 school children taking part therein. A large part of the audience was also composed of children, it being a holiday in the public schools. It is said that the alarm of fire was caused by the flashing of a calcium light used in the piece. The vast crowd, moved by a common impulse, at once rushed for the doorway. The people in the rear, mad with fear, pressed upon those in front, shouting and cursing. Men, terror-stricken, struck down helpless women and children in front, or climbed over their heads to the top of the staircase, and precipitated themselves upon the screaming and bleeding mass of children and women in the hallway. A few heroic men placed themselves near the doorway and endeavored to assure the people there was no danger, and an effort was made from the stage to stop the mad career of the affrighted audience, but nothing could check the panic until many had been trampled under foot and killed or maimed. The names of the killed are: Mrs. Alfred White and her son Harry, aged 12; Mrs. Nancy Clark, reported to have died from heart-disease caused by excitement; August and Fred. Loesch, two brothers, aged 8 and 10; Hattie Leslie, aged 12; James Crowley, aged 7; Annie Madronal, of Alton, Ill.; Miss Terovica Massatt, aged 22; and a woman, name unknown.

JEFFERSON DAVIS has written a letter to Judge Lyons, of Richmond, Va., in which he defends himself and the Confederate Government from the charges made by Mr. Blaine in his recent speech in the House, regarding the treatment of Federal prisoners in Southern prisons. Mr. Davis claims that "the records, both Federal and Confederate, disprove the charge of unnecessary cruelty to prisoners by the Confederate authorities, and that the country is full of witnesses who bear oral testimony against it." He says further:

The report of the Confederate Commissioner for the exchange of prisoners shows how persistent and liberal were our efforts to secure relief of captives. Failing in those attempts, I instructed General R. E. Lee to go, under a flag of truce, and seek an interview with General Grant, to represent to him the suffering and death of Federal prisoners held by us, to explain the causes which were beyond our control, and to urge, in the name of humanity, the observance of the cartel for exchange of prisoners. To this, as to all previous appeals, a deaf ear was turned. I will not attempt, from memory, to write the report made to me of the incidents of this mission. Lee no longer lives to defend the cause and the country he loved so well and served so efficiently, but General Grant can not fail to remember so extraordinary a visit, and his objections to executing the cartel are well known to the public. But whoever else may choose to forget my efforts in this regard, the prisoners at Andersonville and the delegates I permitted them to send to President Lincoln to plead for the resumption of the exchange of prisoners can not fail to remember how willing I was to restore them to their homes and to the comforts of which they were in need, provided the imprisoned soldiers of the Confederacy should be in like manner released and returned to us.

THE case of the Government against Gen. Orville E. Babcock, indicted for conspiracy in connection with the Whisky Ring, was called in the United States Court at St. Louis, before Judges Dillon and Treat, on the 7th. The Government was represented by District-Attorney Dyer, Assistant District-Attorney Bliss, Col. Broadhead and Major Eaton. The defendant's counsel comprised Judge J. K. Porter, of New York, ex-Attorney-General Williams, Emory A. Storrs, of Chicago, and Judges John M. and Chester Krum, of St. Louis. There was a great pressure to obtain admission to the court-room, but the space therein was

barely sufficient for the large number of those directly interested in the case, so that, excepting the reporters and a favored few outsiders, the doors were practically barred.

CHIEF-JUSTICE WHITE, of Utah, in a recent charge to the Grand Jury concerning polygamy, said: "We had better look it squarely in the face, distasteful as it may be to some, and govern ourselves by right reason and manly discretion in dealing with it. Polygamy must be suppressed in this Territory. Mormonism may survive, and, relieved from it, would stand unshackled and free as every other creed or mode of religious worship, shielded and protected by the Constitution of our common country; but if Mormonism cannot sever itself from polygamy, it will be to it the bridal of death."

SAMUEL BOYD, Deputy United States Marshal, was shot and killed on the evening of the 5th, at Brownsville, Tenn., by H. M. Clarke, one of editors of the Brownsville Democrat, in a quarrel which grew out of a political discussion which commenced in jest, Boyd accusing Clarke of having been a Ku-Klux leader, and Clarke retorting by saying Boyd had been a Loyal League leader, to which Boyd responded by calling Clarke a liar, which Clarke asked him to retract; but instead he put his hand behind him, as if to draw a pistol, and advanced on Clarke, who drew his pistol and fired three shots, one taking effect in the right arm, another in the shoulder, and a third near the heart. Boyd fell and expired in a few moments. Clarke was arrested and held in \$3,000 bonds to answer. Both men have families, and were previously on good terms.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL BREVITIES

THE Michigan Republican State Convention will be held at Grand Rapids on May 10.

THE trial of Samuel Lappin, ex-Treasurer of Kansas, will be held at the March term of the District Court at Topeka. Lappin waived a preliminary examination, and will remain in jail until his trial comes off.

THE following are among the nominations recently confirmed by the Senate: Jacob M. McGraw, Ohio, to be Auditor of the Treasury for the Post-office Department; Wm. Sanborn, of Michigan, Secretary of Arizona Territory; Ephraim McMertrie, Pension Agent at St. Paul; C. W. Darling, Indian Agent at Fort Berthold, Dakota; L. E. Dyer, of Tennessee, United States Consul at Odessa.

CARDINAL LEDOCHOWSKY has been released from imprisonment, but it is said is prohibited from entering the provinces of Silesia or Posen, or the districts of Frankfurt-on-the-Oder or Mariemarden.

INTELLIGENCE has been received by his friends in this country of the death of Rev. John Anthony Marie Palamorgues, which sad event occurred at Ste. Genevieve, France, Nov. 19. Father Palamorgues came to the United States as a missionary priest in 1838 and for thirty years resided at Davenport, Iowa, enjoying universal respect for his good works and genuine virtues.

SENATOR CAMERON of Pennsylvania has been chosen Chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee, and the Hon. J. M. Edmunds has been re-elected Secretary, and Jacob Tome, Treasurer.

JOHN FORSTER, formerly one of the editors of the London Daily News, and author of a Life of Charles Dickens, is dead.

MR. WM. MCKEE's attorneys have made a motion for a new trial in his case, on the ground that the Court admitted illegal and incompetent evidence; that the Court erred in its instructions and charge to the Jury; and that the verdict is against the law and the evidence.

THE Jury in the case of Landis, the murderer of Carruth, the Vinland (N. J.) editor, brought in a verdict of not guilty, on the ground of insanity.

HON. A. J. MOWREY, a member of the Kansas Legislature from Doniphan County, is implicated in the issue of some \$3,000 of fraudulent school-bonds in Comanche County, two years ago. A warrant was out for his arrest, but he received timely notice in some way and made good his escape. The Governor has offered a reward of \$200 for his capture.

MRS. THOMASSEN, wife of the Bremerhaven dynamite fiend, arrived in New York from Europe on the 7th.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

The closing price of gold in New York, on February 7, was 112 1/2.

The residence of David Skidmore, near Deerpark, Long Island, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 30th ult., and all the occupants, four in number, comprising Mr. Skidmore, Fleet Weeks, an old servant, Mrs. Titus, the housekeeper, and her husband, were burned to death. Skidmore was an old man almost constantly in litigation with his neighbors, and had a great many enemies. The supposition is that he was murdered and then the premises fired, the other occupants being unable to escape.

There was a considerable fall of snow, accompanied by severe cold weather, throughout the Western and Southwestern States on the 1st.

At East Lyndon, Vt., on the 1st, Silas Wilder, in a fit of passion caused by an altercation with his wife about a trivial matter,

stabbed her with a dirk-knife. Leaving her for dead he then seized an ax and with it murdered both his father and mother. He then cut his own throat, and death ensuing at once, ran to the barn, fastened a rope around his neck and jumped from a beam, breaking his neck and causing instant death. The father and mother are both dead. The wife, it is thought, may recover.

At Appleton, Kas., 12 miles southeast of Fort Scott, on the 31st ult., Dick Davis, a desperado, had some words with Samuel Harvey, a blacksmith, and pulled his revolver on him. At the same moment Fayette Harvey, Samuel's brother, came up behind Davis and struck him over the head with a sledge-hammer, following up his attack until Davis was dead. Just as Harvey struck Davis the first blow the latter fired at Samuel, the ball taking effect in his right arm, passing entirely through it and lodging in the hip. The wound is not considered dangerous. Fayette escaped.

A tri-weekly stage line, carrying the mails, has been started between Cheyenne and Custer City, via Fort Laramie, and Red Cloud, Wyoming Territory.

Northup & Sons' Bank, at Wyandotte, Kan., was robbed on the morning of the 2d of \$2,400. The vault was broken into and the safe blown open.

While crossing the Des Moines River, near Buena Vista, Iowa, on the night of the 2d, a young lady named Belle Stevens and a gentleman named B. J. Bird both went through the ice and Miss Stevens was drowned. The gentleman was unconscious when rescued, but will probably recover.

An explosion caused by fire damp occurred in the Jabin mine in Belgium recently, by which over 150 lives were lost.

The dwelling of George Heindle, near Hamburg, in Bureau County, Ill., was burned on the night of the 4th, and Mr. Heindle, his wife and two children perished in the flames. A daughter 10 years old escaped by jumping from a second-story window.

There is a glut of silver coin in San Francisco, and a meeting of merchants has been held to see if some outlet can not be found for the surplus, as the current discount of from three to five per cent. on silver causes much inconvenience to trade.

At Leavenworth, Kas., on the evening of the 7th, about dusk, two men in a buggy drove up to Dreckelman's jewelry store, on Delaware Street. One of them went into the store, and asked to look at some gold chains. Mr. Dreckelman was alone in the store at the time. He handed out four chains from the show-case. The man took the chains, put them in his pocket, drew a revolver, got into the buggy and drove off at a rapid rate, and had not been captured when this report was sent.

John Dolan, the murderer of Mr. Noe, in New York, has been sentenced to be hanged on March 24.

HOW TO MAKE A NICE GIRL.—First get the girl (N. B.—She mustn't be an old girl, but a young one, nice and tender). Bring her up from early infancy on a strict diet of hot pickles, cold brandy and water, and Ouida's novels. Send her to a fashionable boarding-school to be "finished off," and when she comes home for the holidays care fully develop her latent love for dress, extravagant habits, and fondness for flirtations. Buy her the slang dictionary, and let her go everywhere and do every thing she likes. By the time she is 21 she will be quite a nice girl.

THE MARKETS.

ST. LOUIS, February 4, 1876. BEEVES—Choice, \$5.12; good to Prime, \$4.25; Cows and Heifers, \$1.25; Corn-Fed Texans, \$3.50; HOGS—Packing, \$7.50; SHEEP—Common to Choice, \$2.50; FLOUR—Family, \$6.75; WHEAT—Red, No. 2, \$1.50; CORN—No. 2, Mixed, 38; OATS—No. 2, 35; RYE—No. 2, 60; TIMOTHY SEED—\$2.25; TOBACCO—Shipping Lugs, \$3.25; MEDIUM SHIPPING LEAF, \$6.50; HAY—Choice Timothy, \$15.00; BUTTER—Choice Dairy, 28; EGGS—13; POOR—Standard Meas, \$21.00; LARD—Steam, 11; SUGAR—Tub-washed, 44; UNWASHED, 32; COTTON—Middling, 12.

NEW YORK. BEEVES—Native, \$7.50; TEXAS, \$7.00; HOGS—Dressed, \$9.50; SHEEP—Common to Choice, \$4.00; FLOUR—Good to Choice, \$5.50; WHEAT—No. 2 Chicago, \$1.21; CORN—Western Mixed, \$1.04; OATS—Western Mixed, \$1.50; POOR—Meas, \$21.00; COTTON—Middling, 13.

CHICAGO. BEEVES—Common to Choice, \$3.00; TEXAS, \$3.37; HOGS—Common to Choice, \$7.50; SHEEP—\$4.00; FLOUR—Choice Winter, Extra, \$6.50; Choice Spring, Extra, \$5.00; WHEAT—Spring No. 2, \$1.01; CORN—No. 2, 40; OATS—No. 2, 31; RYE—No. 2, 67; POOR—New Meas, \$20.25; LARD—Per cwt., \$12.00; CINCINNATI. FLOUR—Family, \$5.10; WHEAT—Red, \$1.30; CORN—New, 40; OATS—No. 2, 31; POOR—New Meas, \$21.40; LARD—Steam, 12; COTTON—Middling, 12.

KANSAS CITY. BEEVES—Native Steers, \$3.25; HOGS—Packers, \$7.10; MEMPHIS. FLOUR—Choice, \$5.00; CORN—No. 2 White, \$1.50; OATS—47; COTTON—Middling, 12; NEW ORLEANS. FLOUR—Choice, \$6.00; CORN—Yellow, 50; OATS—45; HAY—Prime, \$16.00; POOR—New Meas, \$22.00; SUGAR—Fair to Prime, \$4.75; COTTON—Low Middling, 11.